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CANBERRA

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## FREQUENCY OF PAY, AUGUST 1977

### INQUIRIES

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### MAIN FEATURES

- In August 1977, 56.6 per cent of employees were paid weekly and 35.9 per cent fortnightly.
- The proportion of weekly-paid employees ranged from 81.9 per cent for salespersons to 17.5 per cent for employees in professional and technical occupations.
- Over 80 per cent of employees in manufacturing, in wholesale and retail trade and in entertainment, recreation, restaurants, hotels and personal services were paid weekly.

### Introduction

This bulletin contains information about the frequency of pay of wage and salary earners employed in August 1977. The estimates were derived from the population survey conducted in that month. Results of earlier surveys were published in *Frequency of Pay*, August 1974 and August 1976 (Catalogue No. 6320.0. Previously Ref. No. 6.46) and in *Labour Force Experience During 1968* (Catalogue No. 6206.0. Previously Ref. No. 6.26).

### The population survey

2. The survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 30,000 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.) and covers about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia. The information is obtained each quarter from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers, the interviews being carried out during a four week period.

### Scope

3. The survey estimates relate to all persons aged 15 years and over, except persons in institutions, members of the permanent defence forces and certain diplomatic personnel customarily excluded from census and estimated populations. Persons in institutions are those who were patients in hospitals and sanatoria, or inmates of gaols, reformatories, etc., for whom, for the

purposes of the survey, the institution was regarded as their dwelling.

4. For the purposes of this survey questions were asked of persons who were wage and salary earners in their main job. Employers, self-employed persons and unpaid family helpers were excluded from the survey.

### Reliability of the estimates

5. Since the estimates in this bulletin are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the information had been obtained from occupants of all dwellings. An indication of the likely differences is given in the Technical Note, page 5. See also paragraph 6 of the Technical Note regarding non-sampling errors.

### Related publications

6. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

- *The Labour Force* (Catalogue No. 6203.0. Previously Ref. No. 6.20)
- *Labour Force Experience* (Catalogue No. 6206.0. Previously Ref. No. 6.26)
- *Weekly Earnings of Employees (Distribution)* (Catalogue No. 6310.0. Previously Ref. No. 6.51).

7. An up-to-date list of population survey reports is given in *The Labour Force* each quarter.

8. Publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications 1977* (Catalogue No. 1101.0. Previously Ref. No. 1.8) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

### Symbols and other usages

- \* Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses.

Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in tables are due to rounding.

R. J. CAMERON  
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. EMPLOYED WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS (a) : INDUSTRY AND FREQUENCY OF PAY, AUSTRALIA  
AUGUST 1977

| Industry   | Frequency of pay |          |             |          |         |          |           |          |
|--|------------------|----------|-------------|----------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|
|  | Weekly           |          | Fortnightly |          | Monthly |          | Total (b) |          |
|  | '000             | Per cent | '000        | Per cent | '000    | Per cent | '000      | Per cent |
| MALES  |                  |          |             |          |         |          |           |          |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing, etc.                                 | 36.3             | 39.5     | 24.5        | 26.7     | 16.6    | 18.0     | 91.9      | 100.0    |
| Mining and quarrying   | 28.6             | 42.8     | 30.5        | 45.6     | 7.5     | 11.2     | 66.9      | 100.0    |
| Manufacturing  | 696.9            | 77.4     | 124.5       | 13.8     | 72.8    | 8.1      | 899.8     | 100.0    |
| Electricity, gas and water   | 41.9             | 44.5     | 50.9        | 54.2     | *       | *        | 94.0      | 100.0    |
| Construction   | 217.9            | 69.4     | 84.5        | 26.9     | 8.0     | 2.6      | 313.8     | 100.0    |
| Wholesale and retail trade   | 444.9            | 81.5     | 40.0        | 7.3      | 52.2    | 9.6      | 546.2     | 100.0    |
| Transport and storage  | 104.8            | 49.1     | 96.5        | 45.2     | 7.3     | 3.4      | 213.5     | 100.0    |
| Communication  | *                | *        | 94.7        | 97.1     | *       | *        | 97.5      | 100.0    |
| Finance, insurance, real estate and business services                | 52.6             | 26.1     | 119.6       | 59.3     | 26.4    | 13.1     | 201.6     | 100.0    |
| Public administration and defence (c)                                | 30.6             | 17.0     | 148.1       | 82.3     | *       | *        | 180.0     | 100.0    |
| Community services   | 48.2             | 16.0     | 229.3       | 76.2     | 20.3    | 6.7      | 300.8     | 100.0    |
| Entertainment, recreation, restaurants, hotels and personal services | 86.0             | 77.7     | 14.5        | 13.1     | *       | *        | 110.7     | 100.0    |
| Total  | 1,790.7          | 57.5     | 1,057.5     | 33.9     | 217.7   | 7.0      | 3,116.6   | 100.0    |
| FEMALES  |                  |          |             |          |         |          |           |          |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing, etc.                                 | 7.7              | 52.4     | *           | *        | *       | *        | 14.8      | 100.0    |
| Mining and quarrying   | *                | *        | *           | *        | *       | *        | 5.8       | 100.0    |
| Manufacturing  | 278.6            | 91.0     | 15.9        | 5.2      | 8.4     | 2.7      | 306.3     | 100.0    |
| Electricity, gas and water   | *                | *        | 5.0         | 60.2     | *       | *        | 8.3       | 100.0    |
| Construction   | 15.1             | 71.4     | *           | *        | *       | *        | 21.1      | 100.0    |
| Wholesale and retail trade   | 349.4            | 90.2     | 18.7        | 4.8      | 10.8    | 2.8      | 387.5     | 100.0    |
| Transport and storage  | 18.5             | 56.3     | 13.0        | 39.5     | *       | *        | 32.8      | 100.0    |
| Communication  | *                | *        | 31.6        | 93.5     | *       | *        | 33.8      | 100.0    |
| Finance, insurance, real estate and business services                | 79.8             | 40.2     | 105.4       | 53.1     | 9.2     | 4.6      | 198.7     | 100.0    |
| Public administration and defence (c)                                | 10.1             | 11.0     | 79.4        | 86.7     | *       | *        | 91.7      | 100.0    |
| Community services   | 90.3             | 16.8     | 421.9       | 78.3     | 18.0    | 3.3      | 538.8     | 100.0    |
| Entertainment, recreation, restaurants, hotels and personal services | 147.4            | 84.5     | 13.5        | 7.7      | *       | *        | 174.4     | 100.0    |
| Total  | 1,001.8          | 55.2     | 713.1       | 39.3     | 57.8    | 3.2      | 1,813.9   | 100.0    |
| PERSONS  |                  |          |             |          |         |          |           |          |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing, etc.                                 | 44.0             | 41.3     | 26.4        | 24.7     | 19.6    | 18.4     | 106.7     | 100.0    |
| Mining and quarrying   | 30.0             | 41.3     | 33.6        | 46.2     | 8.8     | 12.2     | 72.6      | 100.0    |
| Manufacturing  | 975.5            | 80.9     | 140.4       | 11.6     | 81.1    | 6.7      | 1,206.0   | 100.0    |
| Electricity, gas and water   | 45.2             | 44.2     | 55.9        | 54.7     | *       | *        | 102.3     | 100.0    |
| Construction   | 233.0            | 69.6     | 88.1        | 26.3     | 9.2     | 2.7      | 334.9     | 100.0    |
| Wholesale and retail trade   | 794.3            | 85.1     | 58.7        | 6.3      | 63.0    | 6.7      | 933.7     | 100.0    |
| Transport and storage  | 123.3            | 50.1     | 109.5       | 44.5     | 8.1     | 3.3      | 246.3     | 100.0    |
| Communication  | *                | *        | 126.3       | 96.2     | *       | *        | 131.3     | 100.0    |
| Finance, insurance, real estate and business services                | 132.5            | 33.1     | 225.0       | 56.2     | 35.6    | 8.9      | 400.2     | 100.0    |
| Public administration and defence (c)                                | 40.7             | 15.0     | 227.5       | 83.7     | *       | *        | 271.7     | 100.0    |
| Community services   | 138.4            | 16.5     | 651.3       | 77.6     | 38.3    | 4.6      | 839.6     | 100.0    |
| Entertainment, recreation, restaurants, hotels and personal services | 233.4            | 81.9     | 28.0        | 9.8      | 6.6     | 2.3      | 285.1     | 100.0    |
| Total  | 2,792.5          | 56.6     | 1,770.6     | 35.9     | 275.5   | 5.6      | 4,930.5   | 100.0    |

(a) Non-institutional civilians aged 15 years and over. For scope of the survey see page 1, paragraphs 3 and 4. (b) Includes 50,700 males (1.6 per cent) and 41,300 females (2.3 per cent) paid at other intervals. (c) Excludes permanent defence forces.

\* Less than, or based on a figure less than 4,000. See page 5, paragraph 5.

TABLE 2. EMPLOYED WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS (a) : OCCUPATION AND FREQUENCY OF PAY, AUSTRALIA  
AUGUST 1977

| Occupation   | Frequency of pay |             |                |             |              |            |                |              |
|--|------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|------------|----------------|--------------|
|  | Weekly           |             | Fortnightly    |             | Monthly      |            | Total (b)      |              |
|  | '000             | Per cent    | '000           | Per cent    | '000         | Per cent   | '000           | Per cent     |
| MALES  |                  |             |                |             |              |            |                |              |
| Professional and technical   | 75.9             | 20.0        | 236.0          | 62.4        | 61.8         | 16.3       | 378.4          | 100.0        |
| Administrative, executive and managerial   | 98.4             | 42.6        | 58.7           | 25.4        | 68.1         | 29.5       | 231.0          | 100.0        |
| Clerical   | 90.3             | 27.8        | 214.2          | 66.0        | 18.9         | 5.8        | 324.5          | 100.0        |
| Sales  | 143.9            | 72.9        | 26.1           | 13.2        | 21.8         | 11.0       | 197.4          | 100.0        |
| Farmers, fishermen, timber-getters etc.  | 53.1             | 44.7        | 32.2           | 27.1        | 17.0         | 14.3       | 118.6          | 100.0        |
| Transport and communication  | 126.9            | 55.0        | 94.6           | 41.0        | *            | *          | 230.8          | 100.0        |
| Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers n.e.c. (including miners, quarrymen and related workers) | 1,108.6          | 76.2        | 315.7          | 21.7        | 23.2         | 1.6        | 1,454.6        | 100.0        |
| Service, sport and recreation  | 93.7             | 51.7        | 80.2           | 44.2        | *            | *          | 181.5          | 100.0        |
| <i>Total</i>   | <i>1,790.7</i>   | <i>57.5</i> | <i>1,057.5</i> | <i>33.9</i> | <i>217.7</i> | <i>7.0</i> | <i>3,116.6</i> | <i>100.0</i> |
| FEMALES  |                  |             |                |             |              |            |                |              |
| Professional and technical   | 48.9             | 14.6        | 266.6          | 79.5        | 12.7         | 3.8        | 335.5          | 100.0        |
| Administrative, executive and managerial   | 14.7             | 60.1        | 5.8            | 23.9        | *            | *          | 24.5           | 100.0        |
| Clerical   | 341.2            | 53.4        | 261.6          | 40.9        | 27.6         | 4.3        | 639.4          | 100.0        |
| Sales  | 191.2            | 90.2        | 7.7            | 3.7         | 4.2          | 2.0        | 211.9          | 100.0        |
| Farmers, etc.  | 7.4              | 56.1        | *              | *           | *            | *          | 13.2           | 100.0        |
| Transport and communication  | 16.9             | 38.6        | 23.2           | 52.9        | *            | *          | 43.8           | 100.0        |
| Tradeswomen, production-process workers and labourers n.e.c.   | 210.0            | 94.2        | 11.2           | 5.0         | *            | *          | 222.9          | 100.0        |
| Service, sport and recreation  | 171.5            | 53.2        | 134.6          | 41.7        | 5.0          | 1.6        | 322.7          | 100.0        |
| <i>Total</i>   | <i>1,001.8</i>   | <i>55.2</i> | <i>713.1</i>   | <i>39.3</i> | <i>57.8</i>  | <i>3.2</i> | <i>1,813.9</i> | <i>100.0</i> |
| PERSONS  |                  |             |                |             |              |            |                |              |
| Professional and technical   | 124.8            | 17.5        | 502.6          | 70.4        | 74.5         | 10.4       | 713.9          | 100.0        |
| Administrative, executive and managerial   | 113.1            | 44.3        | 64.6           | 25.3        | 70.5         | 27.6       | 255.4          | 100.0        |
| Clerical   | 431.4            | 44.8        | 475.8          | 49.4        | 46.5         | 4.8        | 963.9          | 100.0        |
| Sales  | 335.1            | 81.9        | 33.9           | 8.3         | 26.0         | 6.4        | 409.3          | 100.0        |
| Farmers, fishermen, timber-getters etc.  | 60.5             | 45.9        | 34.4           | 26.1        | 18.7         | 14.2       | 131.8          | 100.0        |
| Transport and communication  | 143.9            | 52.4        | 117.7          | 42.9        | 7.1          | 2.6        | 274.6          | 100.0        |
| Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers n.e.c. (including miners, quarrymen and related workers) | 1,318.5          | 78.6        | 326.8          | 19.5        | 23.8         | 1.4        | 1,677.5        | 100.0        |
| Service, sport and recreation  | 265.3            | 52.6        | 214.8          | 42.6        | 8.3          | 1.6        | 504.2          | 100.0        |
| <i>Total</i>   | <i>2,792.5</i>   | <i>56.6</i> | <i>1,770.6</i> | <i>35.9</i> | <i>275.5</i> | <i>5.6</i> | <i>4,930.5</i> | <i>100.0</i> |

For footnotes see Table 1. \* Less than, or based on a figure less than 4,000. See page 5, paragraph 5.

TABLE 3. EMPLOYED WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS (a) : FREQUENCY OF PAY,  
AUGUST 1977

| State or Territory           | Frequency of pay |             |                |             |              |            |                |              |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|------------|----------------|--------------|
|                              | Weekly           |             | Fortnightly    |             | Monthly      |            | Total (b)      |              |
|                              | '000             | Per cent    | '000           | Per cent    | '000         | Per cent   | '000           | Per cent     |
| MALES                        |                  |             |                |             |              |            |                |              |
| New South Wales              | 660.3            | 58.8        | 366.0          | 32.6        | 82.3         | 7.3        | 1,123.7        | 100.0        |
| Victoria                     | 536.2            | 63.3        | 238.7          | 28.2        | 62.6         | 7.4        | 846.7          | 100.0        |
| Queensland                   | 240.9            | 56.0        | 147.9          | 34.4        | 31.3         | 7.3        | 430.0          | 100.0        |
| South Australia              | 150.1            | 52.6        | 111.9          | 39.2        | 17.1         | 6.0        | 285.4          | 100.0        |
| Western Australia            | 137.6            | 52.5        | 101.1          | 38.6        | 15.9         | 6.1        | 261.9          | 100.0        |
| Tasmania                     | 41.3             | 44.0        | 46.2           | 49.1        | 5.2          | 5.5        | 94.1           | 100.0        |
| Northern Territory           | 7.7              | 32.1        | 13.4           | 55.7        | 2.3          | 9.7        | 24.1           | 100.0        |
| Australian Capital Territory | 16.5             | 32.6        | 32.3           | 63.7        | *            | *          | 50.7           | 100.0        |
| <i>Australia</i>             | <i>1,790.7</i>   | <i>57.5</i> | <i>1,057.5</i> | <i>33.9</i> | <i>217.7</i> | <i>7.0</i> | <i>3,116.6</i> | <i>100.0</i> |
| FEMALES                      |                  |             |                |             |              |            |                |              |
| New South Wales              | 368.2            | 56.6        | 252.0          | 38.7        | 18.3         | 2.8        | 650.9          | 100.0        |
| Victoria                     | 310.0            | 60.1        | 178.3          | 34.6        | 17.9         | 3.5        | 515.7          | 100.0        |
| Queensland                   | 122.8            | 53.3        | 92.2           | 40.0        | 8.8          | 3.8        | 230.2          | 100.0        |
| South Australia              | 88.7             | 51.5        | 74.6           | 43.3        | 4.4          | 2.6        | 172.2          | 100.0        |
| Western Australia            | 76.1             | 50.6        | 63.5           | 42.2        | 5.0          | 3.4        | 150.5          | 100.0        |
| Tasmania                     | 22.1             | 45.0        | 23.6           | 48.1        | 1.7          | 3.4        | 49.2           | 100.0        |
| Northern Territory           | 4.2              | 35.7        | 6.8            | 57.3        | *            | *          | 11.9           | 100.0        |
| Australian Capital Territory | 9.7              | 29.0        | 22.0           | 66.2        | *            | *          | 33.2           | 100.0        |
| <i>Australia</i>             | <i>1,001.8</i>   | <i>55.2</i> | <i>713.1</i>   | <i>39.3</i> | <i>57.8</i>  | <i>3.2</i> | <i>1,813.9</i> | <i>100.0</i> |
| PERSONS                      |                  |             |                |             |              |            |                |              |
| New South Wales              | 1,028.4          | 58.0        | 618.0          | 34.8        | 100.6        | 5.7        | 1,774.7        | 100.0        |
| Victoria                     | 846.2            | 62.1        | 416.9          | 30.6        | 80.5         | 5.9        | 1,362.5        | 100.0        |
| Queensland                   | 363.6            | 55.1        | 240.1          | 36.4        | 40.1         | 6.1        | 660.2          | 100.0        |
| South Australia              | 238.8            | 52.2        | 186.6          | 40.8        | 21.6         | 4.7        | 457.6          | 100.0        |
| Western Australia            | 213.8            | 51.8        | 164.6          | 39.9        | 20.9         | 5.1        | 412.4          | 100.0        |
| Tasmania                     | 63.5             | 44.3        | 69.9           | 48.8        | 6.8          | 4.8        | 143.2          | 100.0        |
| Northern Territory           | 12.0             | 33.3        | 20.2           | 56.2        | 3.0          | 8.3        | 36.0           | 100.0        |
| Australian Capital Territory | 26.2             | 31.2        | 54.3           | 64.7        | 2.0          | 2.4        | 83.9           | 100.0        |
| <i>Australia</i>             | <i>2,792.5</i>   | <i>56.6</i> | <i>1,770.6</i> | <i>35.9</i> | <i>275.5</i> | <i>5.6</i> | <i>4,930.5</i> | <i>100.0</i> |

For footnotes see Table 1.

\* Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See page 5, paragraph 5.

## TECHNICAL NOTE

### Estimation procedure

The estimates are derived from the quarterly population survey by use of a complex ratio estimation procedure, which ensures that the survey estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age and sex, rather than to the age and sex distribution within the sample itself.

### Reliability of the estimates

2. Since the estimates in this bulletin are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the information had been obtained from occupants of all dwellings. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included in the survey. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

3. Space does not allow for the separate indication of the standard errors of all estimates in this bulletin. A table of *standard errors* for general application is given below. These figures will not give a precise measure of standard error of a particular estimate since they are averages based on calculations for a limited number of quarterly labour force surveys over a wide range of labour force characteristics. However, they will provide an indication of the magnitude of the standard error of any particular estimate. An example of the use of the table is as follows : if an estimate for Australia obtained from the sample is 100,000, the standard error is 3 per cent of the estimate i.e. 3,000; there are then about two

chances in three that the true figure is within the range 97,000 to 103,000 and about nineteen chances in twenty that this figure is between 94,000 and 106,000.

4. The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the numerator and the size of the denominator. However, the per cent standard error of the estimated percentage will generally be lower than the per cent standard error of the estimate of the numerator. The per cent standard errors of the numerator can be obtained from the table below.

5. As the standard errors in the table below show *the smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error*. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. In the tables in this bulletin, estimates less than the lowest levels shown in the table below have not been included. Although figures for these small components can in some cases be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

6. The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the standard error, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as the *non-sampling error*, and they may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or only a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

### STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

| Size of estimate<br>(persons) | Australia |       |       |       |       |      |       |        |        | Per cent<br>of estimate |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|--------|--------|-------------------------|
|                               | N.S.W.    | Vic.  | Qld   | S.A.  | W.A.  | Tas. | N.T.  | A.C.T. | Number |                         |
| 1,500                         |           |       |       |       |       | 250  | 300   | 300    |        |                         |
| 2,000                         |           |       |       |       | 400   | 250  | 350   | 350    |        |                         |
| 2,500                         |           |       |       | 500   | 450   | 250  | 400   | 400    |        |                         |
| 3,000                         |           |       | 600   | 500   | 450   | 300  | 400   | 450    |        |                         |
| 4,000                         | 900       | 900   | 700   | 500   | 500   | 300  | 450   | 550    | 800    | 20.0                    |
| 5,000                         | 1,000     | 1,000 | 750   | 550   | 550   | 350  | 500   | 600    | 900    | 18.0                    |
| 10,000                        | 1,300     | 1,300 | 900   | 800   | 700   | 400  | 650   | 800    | 1,200  | 12.0                    |
| 20,000                        | 1,600     | 1,600 | 1,200 | 1,100 | 1,000 | 400  | 900   | 1,050  | 1,600  | 8.0                     |
| 50,000                        | 2,500     | 2,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 500  | 1,300 | 1,500  | 2,300  | 4.6                     |
| 100,000                       | 3,000     | 3,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 600  |       | 2,000  | 3,000  | 3.0                     |
| 200,000                       | 4,000     | 4,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |      |       |        | 4,000  | 2.0                     |
| 500,000                       | 5,000     | 5,000 | 3,500 | 3,200 | 3,000 |      |       |        | 6,000  | 1.2                     |
| 1,000,000                     | 8,000     | 8,000 |       |       |       |      |       |        | 8,000  | 0.8                     |
| 2,000,000                     |           |       |       |       |       |      |       |        | 10,000 | 0.5                     |

— Estimates below the levels indicated have not been published — see paragraph 5 above.

